

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-215. (Cancelled)

216. (Currently Amended) A self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden, comprising:

a base;

a chamber supported on the base, the chamber including an open upper portion and a sealed lower portion for storing a liquid nutrient solution;

a cover removably supported on the open upper portion of the chamber, the cover defining a plant opening adapted to support a plant;

a photoradiation hood supported above the cover by an adjustable support arm extending upward from the base, the photoradiation hood including an artificial light source;

a controller located on the base, the controller adapted to switch the artificial light source on and off on a timed light cycle;

a display panel located on the base, the display panel being in communication with the controller, wherein the display panel includes an add nutrient indicator that operates on a timed nutrient cycle; and

a pump located in the sealed lower portion of the chamber, the pump adapted to deliver

the liquid nutrient solution to the plant opening in the cover;

a power cord adapted to plug into a household outlet and provide power to at least one of the photoradiation hood, the controller, and the display panel;

wherein the cover comprises an upper cover portion and a lower cover portion, and the plant opening extends through both the upper cover portion and the lower cover portion, wherein the self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden further comprises a bifurcated conduit extending from the pump to the plant opening, the bifurcated conduit including a first bifurcated conduit portion connected to the pump, and a second bifurcated conduit portion extending between the upper cover portion and the lower cover portion to the plant opening.

217. (Previously Presented) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of claim 216, further comprising:

a liquid level sensor located within the chamber; and

an add liquid indicator located on the display panel, wherein the add liquid indicator is adapted to activate when the liquid level sensor detects that the liquid nutrient solution in the sealed lower portion of the chamber drops below a predetermined level.

218. (Previously Presented) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of

claim 216, further comprising:

a timing cycle selector located on the display panel, wherein the timing cycle selector is adapted to change at least one of the timed nutrient cycle and the timed light cycle.

219. (Previously Presented) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of claim 216, wherein the chamber is removable from the base.

220. (Cancelled)

221. (Currently Amended) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of claim [[220]] 216, wherein the controller is adapted to switch the pump on and off on a timed pump cycle.

222. (Cancelled)

223. (Previously Presented) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of claim 216, wherein the self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden is configured

and dimensioned to fit on a kitchen countertop underneath a standard kitchen cabinet.

224. (Previously Presented) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of claim 216, further comprising a door connected to the cover, the door being movable between a closed position where the door blocks access to the sealed lower portion of the chamber, and an open position where the door provides access to the sealed lower portion of the chamber.

225. (Previously Presented) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of claim 216, further comprising:

a seed cartridge comprising:

a net basket including an upper support rim adapted to support the seed cartridge within the plant opening, a plurality of substantially vertical ribs extending downward from the upper support rim, each substantially vertical rib defining a substantially vertical channel, and a lower ring connected to the plurality of substantially vertical ribs, the lower ring including a central opening, wherein adjacent pairs of the substantially vertical ribs define a window therebetween;

a hydrophilic cellular substrate located within the net basket;

a seed supported by the hydrophilic cellular substrate; and

a seal located over the upper support rim of the net basket, the seal defining a central aperture and a plurality of substantially radial slits extending outwardly from the central aperture.

226. (Previously Presented) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of claim 225, wherein the lower ring of the net basket defines a substantially horizontal channel located interior to the net basket.

227. (Previously Presented) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of claim 225, wherein the substantially vertical channels defined by the substantially vertical ribs are located interior to the net basket.

228. (Previously Presented) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of claim 225, wherein each window includes an upper border and a lower border, and the upper border is located at a greater vertical distance from the upper support rim than the lower border is from the lower ring.

229. (Previously Presented) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of

claim 225, further comprising a germination cap located over the seed cartridge.

230. (Previously Presented) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of claim 225, wherein the seal is opaque.

231. (Previously Presented) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of claim 225, wherein the seal includes labeling.

232. (Previously Presented) The self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden of claim 225, wherein the hydrophilic cellular substrate comprises a material selected from the group consisting of: peat moss, foam, sponge, and polymer.

233. (Currently Amended) A self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden, comprising:

a base;

a chamber removably supported on the base, the chamber including an open upper portion and a sealed lower portion for storing a liquid nutrient solution;

a cover removably supported on the open upper portion of the chamber, the cover defining a plant opening adapted to support a plant;

a door connected to the cover, the door being movable between a closed position where the door blocks access to the sealed lower portion of the chamber, and an open position where the door provides access to the sealed lower portion of the chamber;

a seed cartridge supported by the plant opening, the seed cartridge containing at least one seed;

a photoradiation hood supported above the cover by an adjustable support arm extending upward from the base, the photoradiation hood including an artificial light source;

a controller located on the base, the controller adapted to switch the artificial light source on and off on a timed light cycle;

a display panel located on the base, the display panel being in communication with the controller, wherein the display panel includes an add nutrient indicator that operates on a timed nutrient cycle; and

a pump located in the sealed lower portion of the chamber, the pump adapted to deliver the liquid nutrient solution to the plant opening in the cover; and

a power cord adapted to plug into a household outlet and provide power to at least one of the photoradiation hood, the controller, the pump, and the display panel;

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wherein the cover comprises an upper cover portion and a lower cover portion, and the plant opening extends through both the upper cover portion and the lower cover portion, wherein the self-contained, tabletop aeroponic or hydroponic garden further comprises a bifurcated conduit extending from the pump to the plant opening, the bifurcated conduit including a first bifurcated conduit portion connected to the pump, and a second bifurcated conduit portion extending between the upper cover portion and the lower cover portion to the plant opening.